

roof. It was used as a Union church house as well as for school purposes. It was in this house that Rev. Cyrus Chrisler, an old "Ironside" Baptist minister, is said to have burned brimstone, to purge it from the devil, whom he claimed had been introduced through the agency of a fiddle used by Jabez Newton, an early singing master, in the instruction of his classes. The school of Shiloh Hill has ever been of a high grade, and its history is the pride of the villagers and neighbors. An eighty acre tract of land was ceded and a charter granted by the State Legislature to ten trustees about 1840, for the purpose of establishing a college to be called "Shiloh College." The scheme was never fruitful, beyond fostering and stimulating an interest in higher education. The old school-house did duty till 1857, when a frame one was built on the same site. This was superseded in 1882 by the present, a handsome two-story brick building, which was erected at a cost of \$3,500. In 1856 the sale of town lots, which had been previously laid out, commenced. The town is able to report progress, and is enjoying a share of prosperity, as will appear from the following showing of the

PRESENT BUSINESS :

Physician—P. H. McMillan.

Dry Goods Merchant and Postmaster.—Dennis Sheldon.

General Merchandise and Drugs.—George Tegtmeier.

Blacksmith.—William Newman.

Shoemaker.—Henry Brammer.

Tailor.—Fred. Helms.

Cooper.—David Criley.

General Agent.—George Tegtmeier.

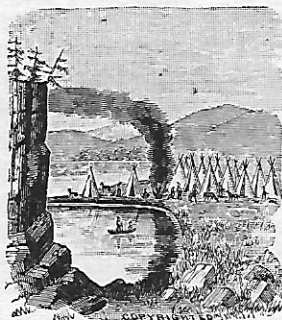
Carpenter.—C. J. Steele.

Wagon Maker.—Thomas Neeley.

The hamlet of Wine Hill occupies an eminence overlooking a fine landscape, embracing many valuable farms. The farm-buildings of this vicinity are largely new and well-painted. The thrift and economy of the Germans are making this one of the best farming districts in southern Illinois. In the hamlet is St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church. It is a frame house, erected in 1862, and is, in point of time, the first church in the precinct. Its supercession in the near future by a brick building is contemplated. The minister first in charge was Rev. Christian Avers. The membership of the church numbers 75. Connected with it is a flourishing school, numbering from 75 to 80 scholars, established in 1862. Powel Grose was the first teacher. The school-house is a commodious frame building. The post-office here was established about 1866 or 1867, and was originally called Lakeville. The business consists of a general store kept by William Werre, who is also post-master; a blacksmith and wagon shop, operated by Henry Stiens; and a tailor's shop, of which Henry Lege is proprietor.

BEAUCOUP.

PERRY COUNTY.



BEAUCOUP is situated in the northern part of the county, and is bounded on the north by Washington county, on the east by Tamaroa, on the south and southwest by Pinckneyville, and on the west by Grand Cote precinct. It contained, census of 1880, a population of 1047. The surface, is level and divided between prairie and timber land, the latter largely predominating. Round Prairie, a circular area, is about one mile in diameter. It was originally larger, but has been encroached upon by the growth of the timber. The precinct, though originally in part covered in forests, as appears from a well-marked Indian trail, at present visible, was much less densely so than now. Much of the timber has grown up within the last thirty or forty years. The Indian trail, alluded to, extends in a north-easterly and southwesterly direction, and leads to Beaucoup creek, whose banks the Indians are supposed to have approached, through the trail, for the purpose of hunting and fishing. The St. Louis and Shawneetown road extends

through the precinct, crossing the Beaucoup. This is one of the old highways into the interior of Illinois. The timber consists, principally, of the various kinds of hard wood, and is of an excellent quality. The water supply and drainage are derived from Beaucoup, Little Beaucoup and Swanwick creeks. The soil, like that of Tamaroa, is best adapted to the growing of wheat. The precinct has not a town or village within its limits. Camden was laid out, July 31, 1859, by Isaac Redfern, and platted and surveyed by Robert Steele, county surveyor. It was located on the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 5, town four south, range 2 west. It never prospered and was vacated years ago.

The first settler in township four, range two west, which includes Beaucoup precinct, and the northwest corner of Pinckneyville precinct was made in 1816 by John Hutchins and William Hutchins his brother, two years previous to the organization of the state. The Hutchins were natives of North Carolina, whence, with their wives, they went to Tennessee, stopped a while, and not being satisfied with the country, pushed forward to the Illinois Territory. Their original aim was Missouri, whither they were on their way, when in May, 1816, they camped upon the banks of Beau-

coup, where they made their permanent settlement. John Hutchings, besides himself and wife and four children, had a colored man named Landon Parks, and Agis, his wife, and another colored woman, named Dinah, in company with him. William Hutchings' family consisted of his wife and six children, and a Miss Delilah Jones, who afterwards became the wife of John R. Hutchings, his eldest son. When this body of emigrants, eighteen in all, with their several wagons and teams, halted upon Beaucoup for a few days' rest, they had no other expectation than to continue their journey when their teams had rested and recruited. They, however, found grouse so abundant and wild-honey so plentiful, and the whole country wearing such a rich and productive appearance, that they were delighted with what they saw, and the thought impressed them of abandoning their trip to Missouri. In the course of a few days, however, they continued their journey as far as Ratcliff's or Sawyer's Point, in Washington county, when they concluded to return to the camp they had last occupied on Beaucoup. They accordingly began their return, and when they arrived at their destination, there was encamped within sight of them a large body of Kaskaskia Indians upon what was then their favorite camping grounds, and what is now familiarly known as Hutchings' prairie. The Hutchings say that when they came, there were great quantities of elks', antelopes' and deers' bones scattered upon the prairie; that in Four Mile prairie, below Pinckneyville, there were many human bones to be found. The presence of these bones they supposed at that time to have been occasioned by a desperate fight between the Kaskaskia and Kickapoo Indians previous to their settlement here, in which a great many of the braves were killed on both sides, and in their running fight were left unburied. John Hutchings built his first cabin on the N. W. qr. of sec. 19, tp. 4, range 2, which he entered July 25, 1817. He built a two-story house near the original cabin, which was known as the "Traveler's Inn" for a number of years; this building stood for upward of fifty years. William Hutchings first built in the south side of the Hutchings' prairie; in 1819 he removed to what is now known as the Watson place, where he resided till his death, about ten years after he came here. John R. Hutchings, oldest son of William Hutchings, is pretty familiarly known throughout the county, having been one of the early schoolmasters and Baptist ministers. He aided in the organization of our county in 1827, and was one of the commissioners to locate Pinckneyville as the county seat, and subsequently served as county judge.

Wesley W. Hutchings, who has kindly furnished the facts and dates of this precinct, through Mr. Todd, for this chapter, is the only surviving member of the family of William Hutchings, the first pioneer. He lives in Three Mile Prairie, Washington county, highly esteemed by all who know him. He was born at the new pioneer home, Oct. 4, 1822, on the east side of the creek.

Mrs. Mary Rice (wife of Hiram Rice, deceased), daughter of John Hutchings, is the only surviving member of that emigrant train of eighteen persons who made their homes in the territory of the precinct in May, 1816. She was five

years old when her father came to Illinois. The nearest settlement to the Hutchings' when they settled on Beaucoup was Ratcliff's or Sawyer's Point, as it was called, about fifteen miles distant, in Washington county. Mr. Hutchings says it was no uncommon thing for the whole family to start afoot early on Sabbath morning to attend preaching at Ratcliff's Point and get back home before night.

House raisings were very common in those early days, and the custom was to invite the neighbors in for ten and twelve miles around, those that lived farthest generally coming the evening before and going back on the morning after the raising. The nearest town to this settlement, when first found, was Kaskaskia. Here these early settlers did most, or all of their trading and milling. Deer skins, honey and bees wax were the chief articles of trade. These they exchanged for clothing and such other goods as they were compelled to have. Bee trees in those days were very rich. One tree cut in the precinct is represented as having combs varying from ten to twelve feet long; and as many as twenty gallons of honey are known to have been taken from one tree.

The settlers learned from the Indians the art of tanning deer skins. They made their hunting shirts, leather breeches and moccasins. Joshua M. Rice, emigrated from Tennessee to Illinois in 1829, and stopped at Hutchings' prairie, where he raised one crop. He then removed to township 4, in 1830. Abner S. Rice, son of Joshua M. Rice, was born in Tennessee in 1810, and Mrs. Lucy Rice was born in the same State in 1812, and belonged to another pioneer family named Hulls, that settled in Round prairie. Mr. and Mrs. Rice still live on the old place aged and esteemed citizens. In 1830, Jeremiah Dinuis settled in section 1, township 4, range 2, on land that was sold to Edward Hodges in 1834. Mr. Hodges says: "They raised cotton and flax for clothing; that the cotton, when planted thin, grew to a height of ten or twelve feet, and not maturing until late in the fall, was often killed by the frost; but, that when they learned to sow it thick, it grew the ordinary height and yielded well. Jacob Walker settled what is now known as the Page place, in 1831, his house being built directly on the line between Washington and Perry counties. Campbell Stuart settled on the Lindsley place 1831. Smith or Owens, on the Gilbert Rice place in section 10, Round prairie, in 1831. Christopher Stone, on the Wm. Chapman place in section 29, in 1841. Lewis Stilley, on the Peyton Brown place in 1836. Elisha Dunn settled the Matthew Marlow place in 1836. James Gordan stopped in the Brown settlement before removing to Washington county. John Peyton settled the Evan Brown place, section 27, in 1841. Brown was in Pinckneyville in 1829. James Meadows settled the Shade place, in section 6, in 1833. The Campbell place was settled in 1836. Joseph Todd and wife, born in Lounenberg, made a permanent home, where he now resides, 1839. Mr. Todd came to America on a trial trip, to see the country, and visited all the principal cities on the seaboard, and then returned with his family. All these places were permanently settled in Beaucoup precinct, previous to, and in the year 1841, it

having at that time had a population of about eighty persons. Beacoup contained only about three sections of prairie lands, hence, we may the more easily account for its being so slow in settling up.

The children of the settlers living west from Hutchings' prairie first attended the school at the Big Rock school-house, in Washington county, and those on the east side went to a school in Mud prairie. The first school-house was built in 1837 on the Edmund Hodges' place, in section 1, and the second at the Truster place, in section 21, in 1850, both being small log buildings. After the introduction of the free school system four school districts were formed, and houses erected in each of them, at a cost of \$1,275.00.

Probably the first mill put up in the county was that built by John Hutchings, about 1820. It was of the band or tug sweep style, and ground corn only. Hutchings built it for the accommodation of his settlement, quite as much as for profit. It was operated by two horses or a yoke of oxen, and would grind as much as twenty-five bushels of corn in a day. In 1845, William Hutchings, Jr., built a tread grist and saw mill combined, upon the old Homestead place, on the bank of Beaucoup. He ground corn and wheat and sawed lumber with it a number of years. Joseph Todd & Sons put up a steam circular saw-mill on the

former's farm in 1854, at a cost of \$2000. Hodges' horse-power mill was built in 1857, and was afterwards turned into a steam saw and grist mill. Crass' circular saw mill was built in 1867 or 1868. In the earliest days of our settlement the milling was done at Kaskaskia, Sparta or Murphy's steam mill, on Beaucoup, in Washington county.

St Mary Magdalen's Church was built in 1869—a frame structure, 24 by 40 feet. The congregation was organized by Rev. Thomas Cuissic, in 1859.

The following are the first land entries in the precinct: May 16, 1833, William Hutchings entered the E. half of the N. E. quarter of section 24, 80 acres. March 1, 1837, John Hutchings entered the N.E. quarter of the S.E. quarter of section 24, 40 acres. April 15, 1837, Joshua McRice entered the N. half of the S. W. quarter of section 1, 80 acres. Same date, C. Mason entered the E. half of S. E. quarter, section 2, 80 acres. Jan. 17, 1837, John McKason entered the N. W. of the N. E. quarter of section 22, 33 acres.

Though the precinct possesses a productive soil and an abundance of valuable timber, the future depends upon the rich mines of coal, yet undeveloped, that underly its surface.

